Calendar No. 331

100TH CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
100-170

PERMITTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY, TO ACCEPT GIFTS OF MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF WORKS OF FINE ART FOR THE CAPITOL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SEPTEMBER 24 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 1987.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. FORD, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 60]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 60) to permit the Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, to accept gifts of money for the purchase of works of fine art for the Capitol, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and an amendment to the title and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE BILL

H.R. 60 was introduced by Representative Charles E. Bennett in January, 1987, and with an amendment in the nature of a substitute was reported by the House Committee on House Administration on June 24, 1987, and passed by the House on July 21, 1987.

The amendment adopted by the Committee, and recommended to the Senate, is a technical one suggested by the Department of the Treasury. That amendment changes the words "Treasurer of the United States" on line 2 of page 2 in Section 1 of the bill to "Department of the Treasury", for purposes of designating the payee of checks authorized by the bill.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to accept on behalf of the Congress, and under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, gifts of money with which to purchase works of fine art for the Capitol. Expenditures of such funds could only be made with the prior approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House, and the Senate Majority

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and Minority Leaders. A separate fund is established for these purposes in the Treasury Department, and all expenditures are subject to prior appropriation.

At present the Senate Commission on Arts and Antiquities, the Joint Committee on the Library, and the National Capitol Historical Society all have some authority and responsibilities with respect to acquisition, display, and preservation of works of fine art. There presently exists no authority for the Architect of the Capitol to accept gifts of money to be used for the purchase of works of art for the Capitol. This bill will eliminate that deficiency, and without cost to the government, permit significant enhancement in the art works available to the Congress.

BUDGET AND REGULATORY IMPACT

There is not expected to be any impact on either the federal budget or regulatory activity. The bill makes no changes in existing laws.

The Committee urges passage of the bill as amended.

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